

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/716,475

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figures 1-4 with Replacement Figures 1-4

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-7 are all the claims pending in the application. By the present amendment, claims 1 and 5 are amended and new claims 6 and 7 are added. No new matter is presented by these amendments. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Woo (U.S. Patent No. 5,264,745). Further, claim 4 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, but was objected to for depending from a rejected base claim

With respect to the drawing objections, the Examiner objected to the Figures 1-4 for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 (i) and (p) due to small characters and the line quality of the figures and, further, objected to Figure 1 for failing to include the designation “prior art”.

In response, Applicant submits herewith replacement figures 1-4, which Applicant submits are in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 (i) and (p). Further, replacement Figure 1 includes the “prior art” label. Accordingly, withdrawal of the drawing objections is requested.

With respect to the claim rejections, claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Woo. As amended, claim 1 defines a converter for converting ECL signals to CMOS signals comprising an input stage, a level shifter stage which includes an NFET differential stage, and an output stage, where the input stage or the level shifter stage having a switching-threshold control system wherein a simulating network determines a reference voltage. Independent claim 5 is similarly amended. Applicant submits that the limitations of independent claims 1 and 5 are neither anticipated of suggested by the

Woo reference. For instance, Woo fails to teach how a reference voltage is determined for switching threshold control. Further, the circuit shown in Figure 4 of the Woo reference merely shows transistors that may switch on or off within the circuit at a particular voltage to convert an ECL input signal. By contrast, independent claims 1 and 5 defines a converter for converting ECL signals to CMOS signals wherein the input stage or the level shifter stage comprises a switching-threshold control system including a simulating network which determines a reference voltage for controlling a switching threshold of the switching-threshold control system. (Specification at page 9). Further, by use of the simulating network, the accuracy of the ECL to CMOS conversion is improved. (Specification at pages 8-9).

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1-5 is respectfully requested. Further, Applicant submits that new claims 6 and 7 are allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependency on independent claims 1 and 5. Therefore, allowance of claims 6 and 7 is requested.

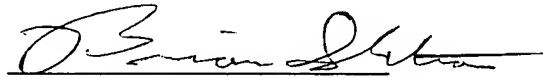
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/716,475

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian K. Shelton
Registration No. 50,245

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 15, 2005